

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 340

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

February 13, 2013

An act to add Section 383 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 340, as introduced, Bradford. Public utilities: Electric Program Investment Charge: disposition.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, as defined. The Reliable Electric Service Investments Act required the PUC to require the state's 3 largest electrical corporations, until January 1, 2012, to identify a separate electrical rate component, commonly referred to as the public goods charge, to collect specified amounts to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and research, development, and demonstration programs that enhance system reliability and provide in-state benefits. An existing decision of the PUC institutes an Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) to fund renewable energy and research, development, and demonstration programs.

This bill would require the PUC to require all grants, contracts, subsidies, financing, and activities administered through the EPIC to comply with General Order 156 of the PUC.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 383 is added to the Public Utilities Code,
2 to read:

3 383. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the Public
4 Utilities Commission adopted the Electric Program Investment
5 Charge (EPIC) pursuant to Decisions 11-12-035 (Phase 1 Decision
6 Establishing Interim Research, Development And Demonstration,
7 And Renewables Programs Funding Levels) and 12-05-037 (Phase
8 2 Decision Establishing Purposes and Governance for EPIC and
9 Establishing Funding Collections for 2013–2020).

10 (b) To promote greater competition among suppliers of research,
11 development, and demonstration programs and to expand the
12 available base and encourage greater economic opportunity for
13 women, minorities, and disabled veteran owned businesses
14 historically left out of research, development, and demonstration
15 programs, the commission shall require all grants, contracts,
16 subsidies, financing, and activities administered through the EPIC
17 established by Decisions 11-12-035 and 12-05-037, and related
18 and subsequent decisions, to comply with General Order 156 of
19 the commission.

20 (c) Not later than 2014, the commission shall include a status
21 report on its compliance with this section in its annual report to
22 the Legislature.

23 (d) Nothing in this section provides the commission with any
24 authority to order the collection of the moneys consistent with
25 Decision 11-12-035, Decision 12-05-037, or to increase the amount
26 collected through the EPIC.